

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SAA-01 IO-13 /090 W
-----020153 301020Z /13

P R 300900Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO RUEHIXZICSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4538
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMRXBASBL CAIRO 227
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SA N
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1056

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, MU
HUBJECT: LATEST MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS AS SEEN BY
BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE

REF MUSCAT 1010

IN CONVERSATION JULY 29 WITH CHARGE, BRITISH MILITARY
ATTACHE SUPPLIED FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON OMAN MILIARY
AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS:

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(A) YHERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY
NEAR OMAN IN THE PAST WEEKS. WHILE WE ASSUME THESE
MOVEMENTS ARE KNOWN TO U.S. MILITAXY INTELLILENCE, WE
FIND ATTACHE'S DISCLOSURES TO BE OF GREAT INTEREST.
SPECIFICALLY, A KASHIN 100 DESTROYER AND A DON 941
SUBMARINE SUPPORT SHIP HAVE BEEN OBSEVED ABOUT 100 MILES
OFF SALALAH, PRESUMABLY MONITORING U.S. NAVAL ACTIONS IN

THE AREA. MORE STARTLING IS A CHANCE ENCOUNTER ABOUT SIX WEEKS AGO BETWEEN A SMALL VESSEL BELONGING TO A LOCAL CONSTRUCTION FIRM AND A SUBMARINE JUST A FEW MILES OFF MINA AL FAHAL NEAR MUSCAT, WELL WITHIN OMANI TERRITORIAL WATERS. THE ENCOUNTER WAS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AND THE SUBMARINE WAS ON THE SURFACE. IT QUICKLY SUBMERGED WHEN THE SMALL VESSEL APPROCHED. THE SKIPPER OF THE SMALL VESSEL REPORTED THE EVENT TO OMANI NAVAL OFFICERS, WHO WERE SKEPTICAL OF THE STORY UNTIL THE SKPPER GAVE AN EXACT DESCRIPTION OF A SOVIET JULIETT CLASS SUBMARINE.

(B) DHOFAR HAS REMAINED QUIET SINCE THE LAST REPORTED INCIDENT (REFTEL). NEITHER PFLO CADRES INSIDE OMANI TERRITORY NOR PDRY TROPPS ACROSS THE BORDER HAVE SHOWN ANY NOTEWORTHY ACTIVITY. WHILE THE MONSOON AND OTHER HINDRANCES GREATLY IMPEDE OBSERVATION AT PRESENT, THE ATTACHE WAS DEFINITE THAT NOTHING OF AN UNUSUAL MILITARY NATURE HAS BDAN SEEN ACROSS THE PDRY FRONTIER SINCE THE ADEN EVENTS.

(C) LIKEWISE, THRE HAVE BEEN NO EXTRAORDINARY DEPLOYMENTS OF OMANI GOVERNMENT FORCES. THE THREAT FROM SOUTH YEMEN CONTINUES TO BE VIEWED BY THE OMANGOV AS LONG-TERM RATHER THAN IMMEDIATE, THE ATTACHE BELIEVED. THE MAIN DANGER LIES IN A HEATING UP OF THE INTERNAL PFLO INSURGENCY, OR POSSIBLY IN A TERRORIST CAMPAIGN IN NORTHERN CONFIDENTIAL

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OMAN. A BALD ATTACK ACROSS THE BORDER BY PDRY FORCES HE DEEMED UNLIKELY.ASIZER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, NAVAL FORCES, MILITARY ATTACHES, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MUSCAT01056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0692
Format: TEL
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978075/aaaaadwe.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c6dbf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MUSCAT 1010
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1976861
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATEST MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS AS SEEN BY BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE
TAGS: PINS, MU, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c6dbf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014